DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 234 718 HE 016 675

TITLE	Policy Statement on Future Competitions for Regional Educational Laboratories and Educational Research and Development Centers under Section 405(f) of the General Education Provisions Act.
INSTITUTION	National Inst. of Education (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	[83]
NOTE	5p.; For related documents, see ED 112 473, HE 016 673-685, and HE 016 689.
PUB TYPE	Legal/Legislative/Regulatory Materials (090) -- Viewpoints (120)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Administrative Policy; Agency Role; Bids; *Competitive Selection; Educational Development; Educational Research; Eligibility; *Federal Aid; Financial Support; Higher Education; Leadership Responsibility; Policy Formation; Position Papers; Program Proposals; Public Policy; *Regional Laboratories; *Research and Development Centers; Research Needs
IDENTIFIERS	*General Education Provisions Act Section 405f; National Institute of Education; *NIE R and D Centers and Regional Educational Labs

ABSTRACT

A National Institute of Education (NIE) policy statement is presented regarding competition for future funding of regional educational laboratories and research and development (R&D) centers with appropriations available for Section 405(f) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA). Attention is also directed to continuing eligibility of the existing laboratories and centers to compete for future support. NIE anticipates that an open competition will be conducted during fiscal year (FY) 1984 and that these competitive awards will begin in FY 1985. A projected schedule of activities associated with competition is included. The laboratory will determine and help meet the educational R&D needs in a specific region of the country, while the center will provide national research leadership in a specified educational problem area of national importance. Each bidder for a laboratory award will determine programmatic priorities derived from consultation with major groups and institutions to be served and from systematic assessment of regional needs. NIE will determine the national educational problem areas in which it will support centers. Bidders will propose programmatic activities addressed to the center's problem area, and an advisory panel that will include leading scholars and consumers of scholarship in the center's field. (SW)

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Future Competitions for Regional Educational Laboratories

and

Educational Research and Development Centers

under

Section 405(f) of the General Education Provisions Act

The National Institute of Education

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
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HE 016 675

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I. Competition

The purposes of this statement are to clarify NIE's policy decision to conduct a competition for future funding of regional educational laboratories and research and development centers with appropriations available for Section 405(f) of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) and to clarify the continuing eligibility of the existing laboratories and centers to compete for future support. NIE's plan to conduct a competition is consistent with the Committee Reports on the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1981 and the Urgent Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1982 in which Congress indicated that future NIE funding for laboratories and centers should be awarded through government-wide competitive bidding procedures and in accordance with principles of peer review involving scholars and state and local educators to ensure the quality and relevance of the work proposed. NIE anticipates that an open competition under Section 405(f) of GEPA will be conducted during FY 1984 and that these competitive awards will begin in FY 1985.

It must be clearly understood that it will be necessary to supplement the provisions of the statement through the promulgation of regulations and through the proposal solicitation process, not inconsistent with this policy statement.

II. Eligibility

Organizations which satisfy the provisions of Section 405(f) of GEPA will be eligible to compete for NIE funding to establish or support a regional educational laboratory or a research and development center. Section 405 refers to "regional educational laboratories established by public agencies or private non-profit organizations" and research and development centers as "established by institutions of higher education or by interstate agencies established by compact which operate subsidiary bodies established to conduct postsecondary educational research and development."

As long as the existing laboratories and centers continue to meet these provisions and any additional requirements, not inconsistent with this policy statement, established through regulations or the solicitation process they will be eligible, along with all other qualified bidders, to compete for future laboratory and center support.

III. Proposal Development

Proposals for laboratory or center support under Section 405(f) will be developed in response to a solicitation from the Director. In recognition of the beneficial effect of long-term funding upon certain kinds of educational research, such solicitations shall provide for long-term support whenever appropriate.

The primary distinction between a laboratory and a center will be one of purpose. The central purpose of a laboratory will be to determine and help meet the educational research and development needs in a specific region of the country. The central purpose of a center will be to provide national research leadership in a specified educational problem area of national importance.

Each bidder for a laboratory award will determine programmatic priorities. The proposed programmatic priorities will be derived from consultation with major groups and institutions to be served and from systematic assessment of regional needs. Each bidder for a laboratory award will also propose a strong, regionally representative and active governance structure.

NIE will determine the national educational problem areas in which it will support centers. These problem areas will be consistent with the educational priorities mandated in Section 405(f) of GEPA. Each bidder for a center award will propose programmatic activities addressed to the center's problem area, and an advisory panel which will include leading scholars and consumers of scholarship in the center's field.

Each bidder will be expected to develop a proposal for a laboratory or a center that will function as a coherent institution and not as a collection of unrelated projects.

IV. Awards

Under the provisions of Section 405(f) of GEPA, laboratory and center awards will be based on the Director's determination that the proposed activities will be consistent with the educational research and development activities conducted by the Institute.

V. Schedule

The Institute anticipates that activities associated with competition under 405(f) of GEPA will be conducted according to the following schedule:

- December 1982 - May 1983
  Convene hearings and advisory panels, and conduct planning activities addressed to the status of educational R&D and the need for laboratory and center services in the eighties (begin to develop rules and regulations for competition as needed).

- June 1983 - September 1983
  Develop appropriate solicitations for laboratory and center proposals (complete rules and regulations as needed).

- October 1983 - April 1984
  Solicitations for laboratory and center proposals are "on the street." (Bidders prepare proposals).

- April 1984
  Proposals are due.

- April 1984 - July 1984
  Proposals are reviewed.

- July 1984 - September 1984
  Negotiations for "best and final offers" take place.

- October 1984
  Awards are announced.

- October 1984 - December 1984
  Awards are completed and funding begins during the first quarter of FY 1985.